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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

3-16-1967

From/To: Richard L. Mitchell (Chalk's reply filed first)

Richard L. Mitchell

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March 16, 1967

Mr. Richard L. Mitchell
Select Committee on Small Business
House of Representatives of the United States
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Dick:

What a pleasure it was to visit with you over the telephone. I had to immediately dictate this letter expressing the encouragement the conversation gave me. I was thrilled to learn of your continuing and very deep interest in evangelizing Washington, D. C.

Immediately after hanging up from our conversation, I remembered the name of a very excellent young man, Jim Reynolds, whom I think could do the job needed at the University Park congregation. Jim is a very mature young man, now finishing a three year graduate program here at Abilene Christian College in Biblical studies. Jim has already done some excellent and effective preaching in gospel meetings, youth meetings, and large campaigns. He is a very intense, dynamic, young man who was also an all-conference basketball star during his undergraduate days at A.C.C. I would like to see you get in touch with him if you think it wise.

Thank you so much for fulfilling the request I made for publications regarding obscenity and metropolitan affairs. I assure you of my very deep interest in Washington, and I hope to be involved in the effort needed in that great city at some future time.

I join you in prayer for the work of God's people in that great city. Please give my best regards to the family. I would like nothing better than a good long visit with all of you.

Your brother in Christ,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Speaker

JAC:lb

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Select Committee on Small Business
House of Representatives of the United States
Ninetieth Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

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BRYAN H. JACQUES, STAFF DIRECTOR
RICHARD L. MITCHELL, GENERAL COUNSEL

3 March 1967

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Minister
809 Byrd Drive
Abilene, Texas 79001

Dear John Allen:

I remember one time you indicated to me that you desired to commit yourself to urban areas -- where the people are. As a result, I wanted to call to your attention an opportunity that is available in the Washington area. It is, I feel, one of the greatest opportunities for work that I know about -- a metropolitan area of approximately 3 million people with no more than 3,000 active members of the church. I don't mind saying to you, openly and frankly, that I feel the work in this area is practically sterile.

I think I can safely say that the number of Christians who move into the Washington area every few years, and who were active at home, greatly outnumber the total active communicants to the twenty congregations in this area. There may be those who say we are doing a good work here but it is not true. We are losing ground. If there was ever a field which needs dynamic ministerial and evangelical work, it is this area. It is the crossroads of the world, both politically and socially. It stands as strategically now as did Corinth and Ephesus which were zeroed in on by Paul, Aquilla, Priscilla and Apollos.

The University Park Church of Christ, near the University of Maryland campus -- of 26,000 students only 26 designate Church of Christ membership -- is strategically located. We have regular Sunday morning attendance of approximately 200. It appears that we will be changing ministers within the next year, possibly within months.

I have no reason to believe that you are prepared to leave what you are doing. I also have no reason to believe that you would be willing to be tied down to a congregation or that you

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Page Two
3 March 1967

should be. I could not help, however, thinking of you with the wonderful opportunity here and the harvest that might be reached. Some say this area is too sophisticated for simple Christianity. As for myself, however, I feel that there are thousands of people who would love to swap their sleeping pills for Jesus Christ if they just understood. It will take something out of the ordinary; something we don't have here; something that has not yet hit Washington. I think you might be that something.

At any rate, I felt that I needed to apprise you of this opportunity and tell you that I am sure the eldership would be delighted to consider you if you were interested at all. Incidentally, I have recently become an Elder at the University Park congregation, although I am in Washington temporarily.

We would like to hear from you and Sue and the children. We think of you all very often and are praying for your good work and will particularly pray for a wonderful California meeting.

Sincerely yours,



Dick

P. S. In the event you are not interested, you might want to suggest a name or two to me. I think you know the type of person we need. At this stage, however, I would hope that it will be kept in confidence. Although Brother Medearis is planning to leave and he knows that we are looking around, it is not generally known, not even in the congregation.

2